

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 16-17 and amend claims 5, 9, and 12-15 as shown in the following complete listing:

1. (previously presented) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:
 - a) preparing a hydrogel;
 - b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;
 - c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;
 - d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;
 - e) applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and
 - f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,
 wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:
 - at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 3 \mu\text{m}$; and
 - at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$, and
 - at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising applying a second treatment compound to the treated support, wherein the second treatment compound comprises at least one of a transition metal and a transition metal containing compound.

4. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising applying to the support for catalysts at least one complex of a transition metal.
5. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the supported catalyst is activated by an activation process selected from the group consisting of at least one of thermal activation, oxidation, halogenation and addition of at least one activator compound.
6. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the first treatment compound comprises chromium or a chromium containing compound, and the supported catalyst is activated by at least one of:
 - a) halogenation,
 - b) thermal activation in an oxidizing, reducing and/or neutral atmosphere, and
 - c) renewed thermal activation in a reducing atmosphere,wherein the thermal activation is carried out in the range from 400°C to 1000°C.
7. (previously presented) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim 1.
8. (previously presented) The supported catalyst of claim 7 further comprising a chromium content, based on the element, from 0.1% by weight to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the supported catalyst.
9. (currently amended) A process which comprises polymerizing [[and/or]] or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst, wherein the supported catalyst is prepared by the process of claim 1.
10. (previously presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the polymerization and/or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one activator compound.
11. (previously presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the activator compound is an organometallic compound.
12. (currently amended) The process of claim 9 wherein the polymerization [[and/or]] or copolymerization is carried out as a gas-phase fluidized-bed process [[and/or]] or a suspension process.
13. (currently amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the polymerization [[and/or]] or copolymerization in the gas-phase fluidized-bed process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size of the catalyst particles in the range from 30 μm to 300 μm .

14. (currently amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the polymerization [[and/or]] or copolymerization is carried out in the suspension process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size of the catalyst particles in the range from 30 μm to 350 μm .
15. (currently amended) The process of claim 13 wherein, in a polymerization [[and/or]] or copolymerization in the gas-phase fluidized-bed process, the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ is $\leq 15\%$ by weight based on the total weight of the product.
16. (canceled).
17. (canceled).
18. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the transition metals are selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Cr, Fe, Ni, and Pd.
19. (previously presented) The process of claim 3 wherein the transition metals are selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.
20. (previously presented) The process of claim 4 wherein the at least one complex of a transition metal is a metallocene compound.
21. (previously presented) The process of claim 20 wherein the metallocene compound comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.
22. (previously presented) The process of claim 5 wherein the thermal activation is calcination.
23. (previously presented) The process of claim 5 wherein the halogenation is fluorination.
24. (previously presented) The process of claim 6 where the thermal activation is carried out in the range from 450°C to 900°C .
25. (previously presented) The supported catalyst of claim 8 wherein the chromium content is from 0.2% by weight to 1.5% by weight.
26. (previously presented) The process of claim 11 wherein the organometallic compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Zn and Si.

27. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles are in the range from 40 μm to 100 μm .
28. (previously presented) The process of claim 14 wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles are in the range from 40 μm to 100 μm .
29. (previously presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ is $\leq 5\%$ by weight.
30. (previously presented) The process of claim 29 wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ is $\leq 3\%$ by weight.
31. (previously presented) The process of claim 30 wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from $> 0 \mu\text{m}$ to $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$ is from 0.3% by weight to 2% by weight.